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## Heart and Lip.

Help me, my God, to speak  
True words to Thee each day.  
Real let my voice be when I praise,  
And trustful when I pray.  
Thy words are true to me,  
Let mine to Thee be true;  
The speech of my whole heart and  
soul,  
However low and few.  
True words of grief for sin,  
Of longing to be free,  
Of groaning for deliverance,  
And likeness, Lord, to Thee.  
More words of faith and hope,  
Of godly joy and grief.  
Lord, I believe, oh, hear me cry;  
Help thou my unbelief.

—Sel.

## Some Obstacles To Successful Revival Work.

Every Church Member Should Pray: "Wilt thou not revive us again?" We become cold, sluggish, and indifferent. In the struggle for bread, we often lose sight of Christ, and in place of walking toward him, we sink beneath the surrounding waves.

We need a revival to revive us, warm us, quicken our spiritual blood, brighten our hopes, inspire our zeal, strengthen our faith, and enable us to tread down all opposition, not only working out our own salvation more successfully, but also getting others to work out their salvation.

Often there are obstacles in the way of having a successful revival. The obstacles do not come from God. He is always ready to help man accomplish the object for which Christ died. If we draw nigh to God, he will draw nigh to us. The obstacles have a satanic and human root, and oftentimes a mushroom growth, hiding the spot needing sunshine, and filling the place where a love rooted plant ought to grow. I will mention several obstacles, impressed on my mind.

One obstacle to a successful revival is too many preachers in the pulpit. It's a common saying that too many cooks spoils the broth, whether this be true or not, it is true that too many preachers in the pulpit as leaders spoil the meeting. Put two men in the pulpit to conduct a meeting, one waits on another, and out of trying to be polite to each other, will waste fifteen minutes of the hour. One feels like making the opening prayer, but out of politeness calls on the other, and the other out of politeness does not refuse. The prayer and the sermon, while addressed to the same God, run by different lines, often far apart, and out of politeness, after the sermon, the preacher must call on the brother to exhort, and out of politeness, he does not refuse, and exhorts longer than the other preached. The good old members mourn about providence not favoring Zion, when the truth is, so called politeness kept the spirit from working. Too many spiritual cooks spoil the broth. One man is enough to conduct revival services. Select the leader and let him lead, if he wants to call on brethren, let him call, but one man is enough, at one time, to take charge of a meeting.

One obstacle to a successful

revival is criticising church members. They are found in most every church, and generally they are very active. It never snows, rains, or blows too hard for them to attend to their work. Prompted by the devil, the results are generally devilish. They find the sermon too long, or too short. The singing too fast or too slow. The prayers are too many, or too few. There is too much doctrine or not enough. Church members should be preached too, sinners should be preached too, church members should not. There is always something the matter, and these critics are the ones to find what that something is. They hunt for it, they visit neighbors to find it, but they never look for it on their knees. Those kind of people never wear out their clothing at the knees first. Now the preacher hears all these criticisms, and as a general thing he is but human and is affected to a greater or less extent, depending somewhat on his experience in the work and the amount of grace in his heart. If the preacher throws them off, how many members are there, who hear and are hurt. Criticising church members are the devil's weapons with which he cripples and hinders the work.

One obstacle to a successful revival, is lack of faith on the part of members. They say they would like to see the cause prosper, but they do not know how any good can be done, as there are so many obstacles in the way, etc. I once held a meeting and a member said, you can't do much here, if you get any one it will be—he his the only one I know. We had a good meeting, had converts, and did not get the one he picked out. Had we run our ship by his faith, we would have run it on the breakers. We want more faith in Jesus. The church contains too many professors who are bankrupt in faith.

"Oh for a faith that will not shrink,  
Though pressed by every foe,  
That will not tremble on the brink  
Of any earthly woe.  
Lord give us such a faith as this,  
And then, what e'er may come,  
We'll taste, e'en here, the hallowed bliss  
Of our eternal home."

One obstacle to a successful revival is a lack of prayer. "Prayer is the Christian's native air." If this be so he ought to breathe it so he may live. A good old man prayed for his son, another joined him, a third united with them. They met regular and plead for their children, and the pastor's success and a revival broke out that run all through that state. One Saturday night, a band of Christians prayed all night for their pastor. In the morning he preached with renewed zeal and a glorious work of grace started. Some nights ago I entered the pulpit, dull and dishearted, but went into work and the clouds parted, it was all plain afterward. When a brother said I prayed for you all the time you was preaching.

But why try to mention the obstacles to revival work. They

are many. There is one thought however in conclusion, that is this, some thought should be paid to the physical welfare of people. You keep a house shut up for six days, enter it on the seventh, go to sleep, and say the preacher was dull, when the fault is in the foul air of the building. A little more attention to ventilation in cold weather and warm, would be a good thing in many places. The body is the organ of the mind, and what touches the body pleases or disturbs the mind. It is a good thing to take sinners as they are, and by God's grace make them what they ought to be. To do this there must be obedience to physical and organic laws as well as spiritual.

I once asked after a man, and the old colored woman I questioned said: "He saves that church." She wished to convey the idea that the individual was the principal man in the church. I have often thought of her strong expression. It would be well to ask ourselves the question: Do I save my church, or am I an obstacle in the way of a successful revival? If the latter, get thy heart right with Christ. If the former, great is thy reward. Keep on in the work, and remember that God is just as able to have his work done now as in the winter. The devil does not take a vacation, and his opposers should always be on the watch. The Lord give your church a successful revival this year.

JOHN DUKE MCFADEN.

## Homer Items.

We are getting along nicely. Our meetings are well attended. Our members have the cause of Christ at heart and are doing all they can to advance the Redeemer's kingdom in the world. Love and peace as a rule prevails. And while the pastor as shepherd, is watching the flock with untiring care, the sheep in turn reciprocate that love and affection that should and must exist between the minister and the church, to make their work a success in the world.

Our field is large. Besides the regular preaching at our meeting house, we have three mission posts, at a distance of seven and twelve miles apart, making a drive of that distance for the pastor three Sundays in every month, and on one Sunday preach twice.

Next Sunday we expect to work up the Home Mission cause. We shall preach from the text "Go ye unto all the world," &c., after which our solicitors will go to work and we are quite sure that Homer will do her full share of the work raising funds for the Mission.

We must not forget to mention the prayer meeting. There has not yet been a night so rainy and dark that our Thursday evening prayer meeting was not well attended. The smallest number present at any time far exceeded the number within the promise. I would to God that every congregation in the Brethren church might have their

weekly prayer meetings for they are certainly the life of any church.

Our S. S. is booming. We began this quarter with a children's meeting on the evening of July 1st. We expected a crowd but did not fully realize the extent of the interest taken in the work, until long before the time of commencement, when Bro. Keyser said to us: "I have seated every available spot in the house and still they come." And they did come until we were creditably informed that there were nearly as many out doors as in. The services were opened with a hymn and prayer. The exercises consisted of speeches, declamations, select reading, &c. The house was tastefully and beautifully decorated with evergreen flowers and a beautiful arch being placed in front of the platform underneath which the speakers stood. In front of this stood a beautifully decorated cross, around which the little ones were drawn in a semi-circle, each repeating a verse in the New Testament, speaking of the cross of Christ. The amusing, but highly significant part of the meeting was, a selection read by Bro. Atkins, "An old man getting into a stylish church, but afterwards into the model church." But the distinguishing feature of the meeting was a dialogistic representation of Christianity addressing the nations of the world, performed by twelve young ladies. One represented Christianity, the others represented as many nations, bearing in their hands the ensign of the respective nations from enlightened and Christianized America to Pagan, China and heathen Africa. The wants of the nations are presented to Christianity, who in turn gives appropriate instruction.

The music, with sister Lizzie Smith and Mr. C. F. Atkins at the organ, was grand and soul-inspiring. The vocal part was given by the congregation. Everybody seemed to enjoy it, and after spending nearly two hours we went home feeling that it was good to have been there.

Our next entertainment may be held in the near future, but it will be something else.

H. S. JACOBS.

July 3rd, 1888.

## Oakland, Pa.

Our communion of May 24th is past, and to say it was an enjoyable time is only telling it as it seemed to those who were there as spectators. But I feel sure I will not be accused of exaggeration by those who participated in the solemn service, if I say it was a feast to our souls indeed.

We are encouraged not a little by our coming thereunto, and to multiply our joy, four dear souls were induced to step into the limpid stream and come forth as new born babes. Bless the Lord oh my soul and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

There was such a refreshing season from His presence on the occasion. Although our little meeting house was crowded with

people, yet a solemnity prevailed that exceeded any meeting of the kind I ever attended.

Bro. J. B. Wampler, our pastor, officiated and did his part well. Our aged brother Robert Whitacher expressed a desire to be with us on this occasion, but on account of affliction failed to enjoy the meeting with us. May God be very precious to him in his latter days. May an inward consciousness of a life hid with Christ in God give him and his companion unbounded joy and peace in the Holy Ghost. A number of brethren and sisters were hindered by affliction and deprived of the enjoyment of our meeting. May God bless all his dear ones and to his name be glory and dominion through Jesus who loved us and died for us.

D. J. HETRIC.

## La Paz, Ind.

This congregation met with a serious loss in the death of our beloved Bro. Z. E. Abbott, whose name is at the head of the ministerial list in the "Brethren Annual."

Bro. Abbott was born Nov. 22nd, 1847, and died in the triumph of a living faith, June 11, 1888. His age was 40 years, 6 months and 19 days. He was baptized by Elder J. H. Swihart, June 15th, 1879. He was elected to the ministry Jan. 13, 1880. At first he was a minister among the Congregational brethren, and I was a member of the G. B. church, and a "progressive" in principle.

About three years ago we became more intimately acquainted, and I learned to love him as a fellow laborer in the cause of Christ. We often held meetings together, and I often enjoyed his hospitality. He was a good doctrinal preacher, and he never failed to have the attention of an audience.

We held our last meeting together at Teegarden, on Sunday, April 12th. We walked home together from the latter place, a distance of three and a half miles, little thinking that we were conversing together for the last time. I went on a visit to Nashville, Tenn., and was absent about seven weeks. I called at his home on my return, but he was away at work, and I did not get to see him for about two days, when I found him at home, confined to his bed and suffering intensely.

A short time before his departure he desired those that stood by his bed to sing. While they were singing the beautiful hymn, "O land of rest," he sang one stanza himself, although he was not known to sing at meeting. He claimed that he could not sing. When his companion said to him: "we'll soon have to separate," he look at her and said: "We can't see the finger of God in this, perhaps it is all for the better." He longed to go home and be at rest. He leaves a kind wife and four children to mourn the loss of a kind husband and indulgent father. We know he is now with the Savior whom he preached so earnestly.

Bro. Abbott died poor. I hope all the neighbors and friends will remember the funeral text and discourse, and show their sympathy to the bereaved family by their works.

JACOB ROTHENBERGER.